

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02357 231935 Z

62

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-05 STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

CIEP-02 COME-00 OEP-01 INT-08 OMB-01 RSR-01 /169 W

----- 005029

R 231538 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2357

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, VE, OPEC

SUBJECT: OPEC SPECIAL MEETING AT VIENNA

REF: CARACAS 2415, 2447

1. OPEC CONFIDANT WHO ATTENDED VIENNA MEETINGS REQUESTED BY VENEZUELA STATES IT WAS MOST BORING, USELESS FLOP. VENEZUELA ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS ENERGY CRISIS WHICH ARAB BLOC PREFERS CALL ENERGY QUOTE SITUATION UNQUOTE. NOTHING NEW
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02357 231935 Z

DEVELOPED REGARDING CRISIS SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN THOROUGH PRESS TREATMENT FOR PAST YEAR. VENEZUELANS, HOWEVER, TRIED INJECT PRICING INCREASE PROBLEM INTO MEETING CONTRARY TO OPEC SPECIAL CONFERENCE RULES WHICH LIMITS SUCH MEETINGS TO ONE SUBJECT AS FIRST PROPOSED. FOR THIS REASON CONFEREES DECIDED HOLD SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL MEETING AT BEIRUT TO DISCUSS PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ARISING FROM DOLLAR DEVALUATION.

2. ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE RESULT OF VIENNA MEETING WAS OPEC AGREEMENT THAT FORMATION OF OIL IMPORTING COUNTRY GROUP WOULD NOT BE IN BEST INTERESTS INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ENERGY SITUATION.

3. ARAB AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS APEAR AWARE THAT VENEZUELA'S GRANDSTAND ACT FOR CONFERENCE BASED ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN FACE UPCOMING ELECTIONS THERE. ARABS WILLING TO PLAY GAME BUT INTEND TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR OWN INTERESTS RE PRICES AND TACTICS WITH OIL COMPANIES.

4. OPEC RECEPTION MARCH 16 FOR CONFEREES MOST CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED ARAB PREDOMINANCE OF ORGANIZATION VIS- A- VIS VENEZUELANS. LATER WALL- FLOWERED MOST OF EVENING WHILE SHEIKHS SUCH AS MANA UTAIBA OF ABU DHABI AND YAMANI OF SAUDI ARABIA GOT MOST OF SOCIAL PLAY. MOWINCKEL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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